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Community Pride Reporter

*Proudly serving the Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual, Transgender Community*

VOL. 5, Number 2

October 1997



LD 1116

ME Gay Rights Opponents Collect Enough Signatures

by Glenn Adams

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) Saying it was a miracle they reached their goal, gay rights foes announced Thursday they had gathered more than enough signatures to force a referendum on a new law barring discrimination against homosexuals.

"It's a miracle of God," Michael Heath, executive director of the Christian Civic League of Maine, said as he stood behind five cardboard boxes full of petitions.

A chorus of "Amen" arose from the two dozen petition volunteers standing behind Heath at a State House news conference. Once the petitions were checked over by state election officials, the gay rights law that is supposed to take effect Friday was put on hold.

Gays, who were overjoyed when the law was enacted and signed by Gov. Angus King earlier this year, were angered and disappointed by Thursday's developments, said an activist.

Heath said volunteers all over the state gathered 58,750 voters' signatures. A total of 51,131 were needed to force a "people's veto" referendum and put what was promoted as a civil rights law in abeyance.

The law, which was approved by the Legislature earlier this year after a two-decade effort, bars discrimination on the basis of sexual preference in housing, public accommodations, credit and employment.

Christian Coalition of Maine leader Paul Volle said opponents believe the law "confers special rights to homosexuals" and compromises the rights of "people of faith."

"The legislation had

threatened the civil liberties of business owners, parents and even charitable organizations that decline to celebrate homosexuality," said Heath.

A leader of the Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance said she was surprised the opponents were able to round up the signatures they needed, but remained confident that voters will uphold the law when they vote on it at a special election on a yet-unspecified date after November but before next April.

"The reality is we've proven our case over a number of years," said Karen Geraghty, a former president of the alliance.

"I'm angry because we have to go through another referendum, and I'm disappointed because groups of fundamental Christians are unwilling to accept that the law has been (enacted)," she said.

State election officials have 30 days to certify there are enough valid signatures to force the referendum. If they find fewer than 51,131 signatures are valid, the gay rights law will take effect the following day, said Secretary of State Dan Gwadosky. Otherwise, the law will be on hold pending the outcome of the referendum.

In 1995, Maine voters narrowly defeated a referendum plan to bar anti-discrimination protection for homosexuals. The proposal sought to limit local and state civil rights protections to age, sex, religion and seven other categories already in the Maine Human Rights Act.

Give Children Hope

by Chelsea Mooser

World AIDS day this year will be focusing on children I used to think that meant to children living with the disease, eight months ago I learned it also means something totally different. I left for Zimbabwe in January of 1997.

I prepared myself to work on an AIDS study in a country with one of the highest rates of infection in the world. In Zimbabwe I worked with Dr. Geoff Foster, a local pediatrician, and a team of ten Africa University students to learn more about child-headed households.

Our job was to access the living conditions and coping mechanisms of children who's parents had died of AIDS. We would travel to rural areas to interview children sometimes as young as twelve who had stepped out of the role of "child" and into the role of "parent."

The children I met where strong, they had been through more than I can imagine. Some of the children were hopeful for the future, some couldn't see beyond that day.

At first I was surprised at how well these children seemed to be coping. They just kept living I guess they had no choice. There was no longer anywhere for them to turn to.

The first weekend we drove out to St. Agustines, a mission community, to practice the interviews on orphan households with adult caretakers. The trip out was bumpy there were nine of us crammed into the back of a covered pick up truck.

The drive was about fifteen minutes from the paved road. We got out at the village center which was no more than the school and the health clinic. It was the kind of Zimbabwe I had pictured and I felt like your typical American going off to get the "African Experience."

A local kid who lived in St. Agustines led me and my research

partners, Darlington and Kundai to the household we were to interview. The walk was about fifteen kilometers and took us two and a half hours. We crossed four rivers scurried up mountains and through jungle like vegetation. It was more walking than I had done in months.

I tried to imagine what it must be like to have to make that walk every morning for school but I was too tired to think about it. The first household we went to consisted of three huts. I felt like I was in a documentary and the woman speaking to us in Shona should have subtitles below her head.

She was an old woman caring for her seven grandchildren. It was a small room we were sitting in she told us the other rooms were falling down and this is where they lived. There was a small fire in the center which filled the room with smoke and heat. There was a broken bed across the room and I wondered who slept there.

Above the bed was a row of shelves housing a few cups with some ripped up newspaper underneath them. There was nothing no toys, no books no nothing. Only the seven children and their grandmother preparing a pot of pumpkin leaves for dinner.

The harvest was late to come, she explained, and they wouldn't have maize for a while yet. This was their life at that moment I felt so lucky I realized how much I had.

There was a boy who was probably my age who had bad asthma which he couldn't fight, he lived in this smoky room and wasn't getting better. He was probably going to die. I was sitting there listening to him talk but I knew that in two years he'll probably be dead. These seven children had watched their father die of AIDS and their mother disappear.

I can't understand what would lead a mother to run away from her children but I don't understand her life either. For us in the States, and

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In a World with AIDS

the middle-class Zimbabweans, life is about living well but for these seven children and their grandmother, life was just about living.

We finished up the interview and walked back towards the village, towards our truck, towards our perfect lives. We continued to do interviews for a few months, gathering data from hundreds of children around eastern Zimbabwe.

The children had different ways of coping with life. Some had jobs, some depended on fields of maize planted by their parents. Life was tougher for children in the less fertile areas. They would often report going to bed hungry two or more nights a week.

Most of the children didn't have shoes and they all thanked us profusely for the small bag of beans we would give them as we left. During these months AIDS became real to me. Not as a medical problem or a political issue, but as just another hard thing piled onto the life of children throughout Zimbabwe and the rest of the world.

Before I went to Zimbabwe I didn't know much about AIDS. I never really knew anyone with AIDS. I had heard all the facts, and how to reduce your chances of getting it. But it was always a medical problem with medical facts that I didn't really understand.

As I got older AIDS became a highly political issue. AIDS was always wrapped up with homosexuality, drug use, economics and premarital sex. I only saw the medicalized, politicalized side of AIDS: The doctor talking about "the cure" while passing out condoms and the religious righters outside the door taking the condoms away.

In Zimbabwe AIDS was personal. They can't afford to be medical or political. For Zimbabweans, an American cure doesn't really matter, it won't solve their problems they can't even afford aspirin. In Zimbabwe the focus is on helping

people deal with the life they are forced to live.

I returned this June with a deeper understanding of the global impact of AIDS. Twenty percent of the people in Zimbabwe are living with AIDS. In Zimbabwe, as is true with most of the world, AIDS is a disease of poverty.

Medical care is out of reach to many Zimbabweans. A general lack of health care leaves people susceptible to infectious diseases. Untreated STDs lead to easier transmission of the AIDS. Women who are economically disadvantaged turn to prostitution.

With such a high rate of infection other problems are starting to appear in Zimbabwe. The newest is a huge orphan population. In traditional Zimbabwean society when a child's parent died the extended family would take care of the orphaned children.

Unfortunately, extended families have recently been economically unable to care for the large number of children being left parentless. When the project was all over we had a dinner party so Geoff could present the findings. I saw all my work become just like those facts I had once read about.

All the bugs and guavas and footpaths had become facts. But for me these things will never be facts or statistics again. The twelve year old girl with four brothers will never be a statistic. The sick boy who walks five miles to school will never be a statistic. The girl whose lets her uncle "visit" in exchange for food and clothes will never be a statistic.

I've realized that there is really no way to put AIDS down on paper. It can't be explained and it can't be justified. No matter how political or medical it becomes in the United States there are still "victims" like the children I met in Zimbabwe. For them it's just the way it is.

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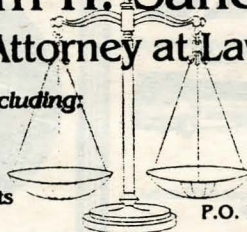
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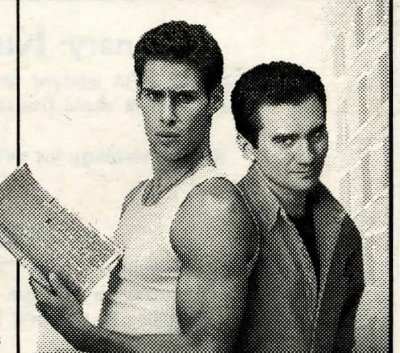


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Court Rules: Ban on Gay Group From Public Facility

TOKYO (AP) In a victory for gay rights in Japan, Tokyo's highest court Tuesday upheld a lower court ruling that said city officials were wrong to bar a gay group from using a public facility.

The education division of the Tokyo-city government refused in 1990 to let the Association for the Lesbian and Gay Movement, known as OCCUR, stay in a city-run youth lodge.

It said that because they were gay, using the facilities would violate the spirit of a rule prohibiting members of the opposite sex from sharing rooms. It said the prospect of a homosexual group having sex in the lodge would bother other guests.

Tokyo High Court Judge Hideichi Yazaki, ruling Tuesday on an appeal by the Tokyo government, said that what they did was discriminatory and illegal, and that they cannot continue to be indifferent toward or ignorant about homosexuals and other minority groups.

The ruling basically upheld one by the Tokyo District Court in 1994, though the high

court more clearly prohibited Tokyo from discriminating against gays. "It was a huge victory for us," said Masaki Inaba a spokesperson for OCCUR. "It's great that we won but more needs to be done to end discrimination against homosexuals."

The high court ordered the city to pay OCCUR 160,000 yen (dlrs 1,333), less than the 260,000 yen (dlrs 2,167) awarded by the lower court. Inaba said the reduction was regrettable but that money was a secondary issue.

OCCUR had originally asked for dlrs 6.5 million yen (dlrs 54,000) to compensate for defamatory remarks allegedly made by city officials and youth center workers.

Most Japanese gays hide their sexual preference, fearing the prejudices of employers and others in a society where pressure to conform is intense. OCCUR, formed in 1986, has about 350 members; 60 percent are gay men and 40 percent are lesbians.

Church Official Advocates "Cure" for Homosexuality

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) A Mormon Church leader advocated a controversial form of therapy for homosexuals by suggesting they immerse themselves in the doctrines of the church to heal them of the sin of same-sex attraction.

Jay E. Jensen, a member of the First Quorum of Seventy in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, said gays must allow the faith's theology to "inoculate" them against homosexuality.

"When the Lord speaks to us, he speaks to our spirits as if we had no body at all," Jensen said Saturday. "When the adversary speaks to us, he speaks to the flesh. All of the appetites, all of the passions are to enslave us."

About 300 gay men and women gathered with their families to listen to Jensen and participate in workshops with titles such as "Resisting the Struggle and the Temptations," and "Meeting Female Emotional Needs."

The conference was sponsored by Evergreen International, a group of therapists committed to the principles of "reparative" or "conversion" therapy to try to change gays into heterosexuals.

Evergreen is not a Mormon Church organization, but the group sustains the doctrines and standards of the church "without reservation or exception."

For years, the reparative approach described by Jensen has been discredited by most

mainstream therapists.

The American Psychological Association the leading society of psychologists passed a resolution in August aimed limiting the controversial practice of reparative therapy. It said there was no scientific proof that such therapy works and some potential for harm.

"This is a welcome addition from the scientific community to the condemnation of these anti-gay efforts," Judith Schaeffer, deputy legal director of People for the American Way, a Washington-based civil-rights organization told The Washington Post. "The idea that homosexuality is a condition from which one should be cured is old-fashioned bigotry passing as science."

But groups such as Evergreen disagree.

"Evergreen attests that individuals can overcome homosexual behavior and can diminish same-sex attraction," according to the group's mission statement. "Evergreen provides education, guidance and support to those involved in the transition from homosexuality."

The organization offers support groups, group counseling and sponsors sports activities. Evergreen organizers believe that sports are key. Many sexually confused men never were good at team sports and were teased for being sissies, they argue. Mastering baseball and basketball promotes masculine self-esteem and helps men see other males as pals, instead of potential sexual partners.

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Mixed Message in Bishops' Letter

Homosexual behavior still considered "immoral"

Washington, DC October 1, 1997 In a pastoral letter to American Catholics, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops yesterday urged parents of homosexual children to accept their children's sexual orientation. The statement, a self-described "out-stretched hand," still condemned sexual behavior outside of heterosexual marriage.

In the message entitled "Always Our Children," the Bishops stress that the Church's teachings on human dignity and respect be extended to all regardless of their sexual orientation. It provided suggestions for parents coming to terms with their children's sexual orientation and integrating it with their religious beliefs.

The statement, however, makes a clear separation between

sexual orientation and sexual behavior. While condemning discrimination against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation, the statement reasserts the Church's belief that homosexual behavior is "objectively immoral." It reiterates that sexual relations are exclusively reserved for a married man and woman for the purpose of creating a new human life.

The following statement is attributable to Kerry Lobel, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force:

"I welcome the open acknowledgment by the Bishops that a person's sexual orientation should not be the basis of discrimination or injustice. Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people face discrimination every day, despite eleven states having outlawed such activity. I hope this open discussion within the Catho-

lic Church will ease the pain of young people coming to grips with their sexual orientation. I reject their notion, however, that our behavior is immoral. We call on the Church to end its mixed message and recognize and affirm the loving relationships we have which cannot be separated from sexual expression.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has worked to eliminate prejudice, violence and injustice against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people at the local, state and national level since its inception in 1973. As part of a broader social justice movement for freedom, justice and equality, NGLTF is creating a world that respects and celebrates the diversity of human expression and identity where all people may fully participate in society.

'It's Your Table Too,' Gore says to National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

WASHINGTON, DC: On September 17, 1997 Vice President Al Gore addressed a crowd of about 300 people at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's eighth annual "Honoring Our Allies" reception last Monday night in Washington, DC. The annual event honors those who make an extraordinary contribution to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) communities.

In his remarks, the Vice President reaffirmed his commitment to fight against discrimination faced by members of the GLBT community. He also told the crowd that in addition to having a seat at the table, "everybody's got to realize that as full members of the American family, it's your table too."

The Vice President came to pay tribute to Coretta Scott King;

John Sweeney, President of the AFL-CIO; and the Mautner Project, a health services organization for lesbians with cancer. All three were recipients of the 1997 Honoring Our Allies award. Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) introduced Mrs. King and renewed his commitment

to pushing for passage of the Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA).

In her acceptance speech, Mrs. King said in 1997, "I still hear from people who claim to be followers of Martin Luther King, Jr., but who think I should be silent about the human rights concerns of gays and lesbians." She said the civil rights movement should be inclusive and unified. "All of us who oppose discrimination and support equal rights should stand together to resist every attempt to restrict civil rights in this country," she added.

Echoing similar sentiments, Vice President Gore remarked that gays and lesbians "certainly have my commitment to work as hard as I can" to stop anti-gay hate crimes, find a cure for AIDS and end workplace discrimination. The Vice President, who was well-received by the crowd, also vowed to ensure gay and lesbian issues continue to have a place on the agenda of this Administration.

Vice President Gore reiterated the Administration's commitment to

combat hate crimes against members of minority groups, including the GLBT community. He spoke about the upcoming White House conference planned for November which is intended to focus attention on these acts of violence and ways to prevent them. "Some of the greatest challenges we face are not challenges of law but challenges of the heart," said the Vice President. "Please be assured, you certainly have my commitment to work as hard as I can until the day we do reach those goals."

Linda Chavez-Thompson, executive vice president of the AFL-CIO accepted the award for Mr. Sweeney. Chavez-Thompson, the highest ranking woman of color in the labor movement said, "your destiny and our destiny are linked." Recalling an old Woody Guthrie song, she said "this land wasn't made for the bigots who claim that their families and their marriages are threatened by your families and your marriages."

This land was made for you and me to live with dignity and security and equality and hope."

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Arts & Entertainment



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Cris Williamson and Tret Fure with special guests,

Women In Harmony will perform at 8 pm on Saturday October 11, 1997 at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 425 Congress Street, Portland, Maine. Tickets are \$16.50 for General Admission.

Tickets for both the concert and the VIP Reception to benefit Southern Maine Pride are available at Drop Me A Line, 611 Congress Street, Portland (on sale now) and Macbeans Music, 141A Maine Street, Brunswick or can be charged by calling 207-773-6974

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Don't forget the FREE test screening of BUUD YAM on Thursday afternoon (10/2) at 3:00. See last week's missive for a description of the film or e-mail me if you want more information. I forgot to mention that the film is set in the 19th century which, at least to me, makes the sorcery aspect and the quest into unknown territory all the more intriguing.

At last we're going to get to see THE FULL MONTY and judge for ourselves if it's as funny as we've heard and deserves all the hype it's been getting. Critics and audience have been lavish in their praise for this film and it's been setting box office records in many theaters. Hopefully, that will be the case in Waterville. A few weeks ago it was

the number five film in the country; not bad for an art-house film, especially because there were only 500 prints in circulation at the time. Many of the top grossing films had 1,500 or more prints on screen.

Sandra Haggard was the winner of last week's trivia contest. Sandra and 22 others correctly identified Gena Rowlands as the star of her son Nick Cassavetes' film, UNHOOK THE STARS. This week's contest couldn't be simpler: what does "the full monty" mean? I'll accept the "correct" definition as well as any fake definitions you care to invent that I find amusing. All answers that fit the aforementioned criteria received before 9:30 on Friday morning (10/3) will be entered into a drawing for 2 tickets to THE FULL MONTY.

As always, you can get descriptions, dates and times of all the films we're showing, on our web site located at <http://www.mint.net/movies>.

Arts & Entertainment

ML/GPA Halloween Costume Party Benefit

"Will be a Ball"

The Maine Lesbian/ Gay Political Alliance's first annual costume party extravaganza, The Great Pumpkin Ball, will be held on Halloween, October, 31 from 7:30 p.m. to 12: am at the Ballroom by the Bay, Holiday Inn in Portland. Partygoers will dance to the music of Maine's most popular DJ's, enjoy special performances by top area talent, and receive glittering prizes in a costume competition judged by Maine celebrities. Best of all, the event will help ML/GPA protect the rights of Maine's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities. Event sponsors include Blackstone's, Barbara's Kitchen and Café, and InNewsweekly. The Great Pumpkin Ball is produced in association with Above & Beyond Productions.

Ticket sales are brisk. "This is truly a hot dance event," says ML/GPA Board Member David Steven

Rappoport. "Yet we've kept the ticket prices low so everyone can attend." ML/GPA's President, Betsy Smith, adds "we're very pleased that the community is so excited about this fund-raiser. People know how vital it is to support ML/GPA's struggle against the religious right. And they also know that the Great Pumpkin Ball is GOING TO BE A BLAST."

Costume prizes will be awarded in many categories including Tackiest, Sexiest, Most Original, and Most Politically Incorrect. A dazzling array of giveaway goodies includes theater and concert tickets, gift certificates from Portland's top restaurants including Barbara's Café, Hugo's, Katahdin, Natasha's, Street & Company, Tabitha Jean's, and The Spirited Gourmet, a night for two at the Maple Hill Farm Bed and Breakfast, and more. The Grand Prize Winner will receive a downtown Portland Holiday Shopping Spree.

Celebrity judges will light up the night including popular entertainer Lynn Deeves, WMTM-TV's Bob Dyk, WBLM-FM's Mark Persky, InNewsweekly's publisher Chris Robinson, Portland Deputy Chief of Police Mark Dion, Maine Won't Discriminate's Pat Peard, Drop Me A Line's Jim Neal, and MS Karla, the reigning Miss Gay Maine.

Music for the Great Pumpkin Ball will be provided by Lisa Vaccaro, R&R DJ's Rich and Ruthann, and Millennium's Bruce wild, and special performances will include the Shoestring Theater and the country line-dance drill team, Two Left Feet.

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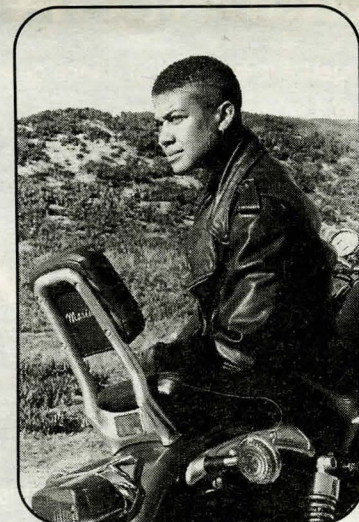


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Book Review: Cemetery Murders

by C.M. Brennan

So much in our culture has been predicated upon a notion of "if it works, it must be good...don't fix it". Why tinker with success? Look what happened to Coca-Cola! However, this does not mean that any one prefabricated product or idea is any better for your body and soul than Wonder Bread.

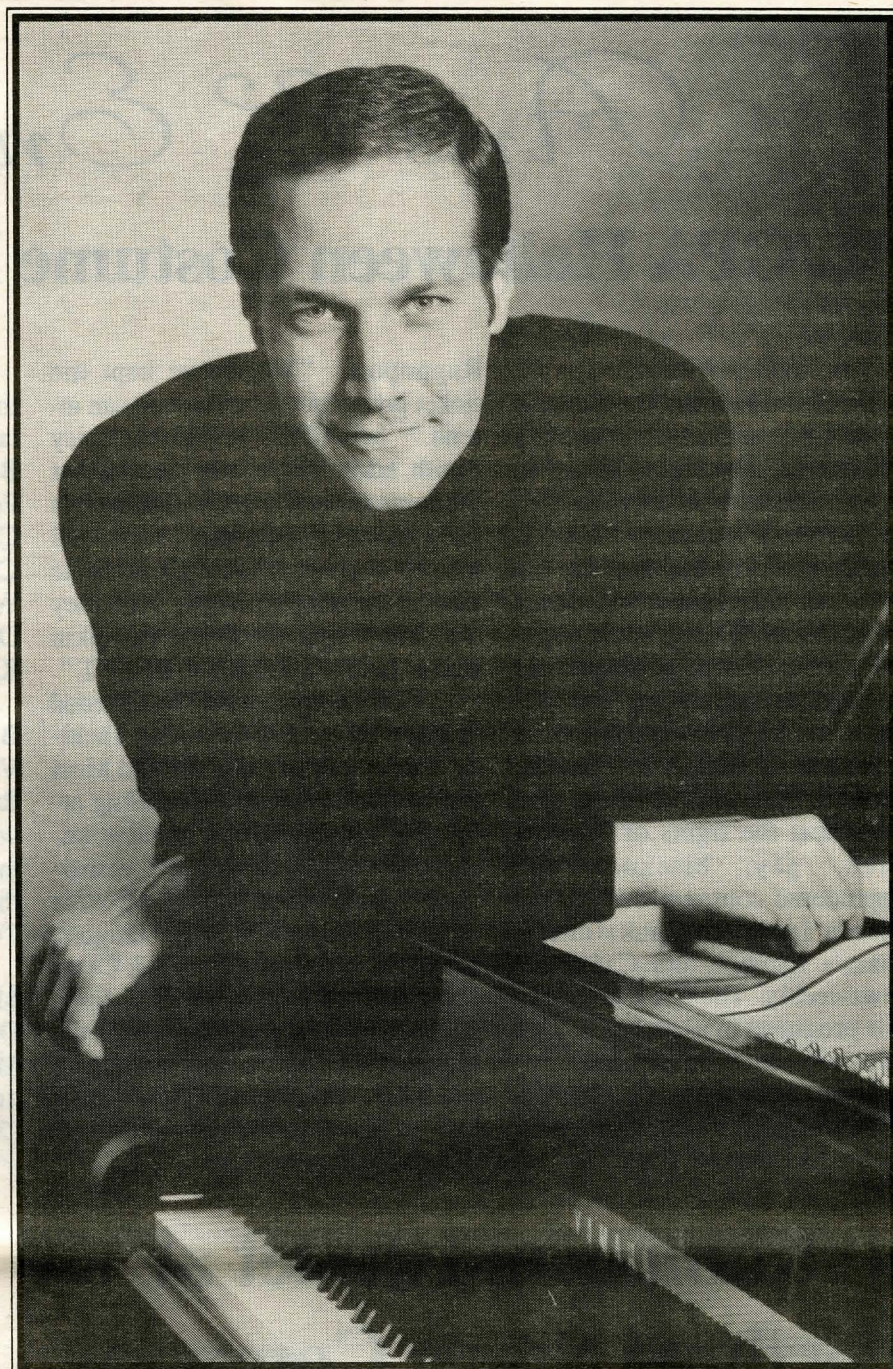
Such is the problem with Jean Marcy's debut novel, *Cemetery Murders*. *Cemetery Murders* is yet another in a long line of cookie-cutter dyketective novels, in which the lonely but stoic PI (who is, of course, a brunette), battles her lust for the frigid-but-alluring cop/rival PI/S/M diva/supermarket checkout girl (who is, invariably, a blonde) with more gusto than she chases the story's evil-doer. (How one can find frigidity can alluring is beyond me, but I think there's a 12-step program for those who suffer.) That the lone lesbian PI

eventually succeeds in nailing the "bad guy" despite her difficulty in remaining vertical is quite remarkable.

There is little point in sketching a plot line: they are infinitely interchangeable, like Legos, regardless of author, publisher, or proposed scenario.

Granted, this type of reading material is not intended to encourage conscious thought in the reader. Rather, it is a fairly banal means of suspending all brain activity and whiling away a rainy Saturday afternoon.

Readers who yearn for books with substance would do well to pass by the marshmallow fluff of the dyketective novel series (any and all of them). And if you cannot find the substance you are looking for, write your own damn book. Why more women do not is a true lesbian mystery.



Romantic Piano Sensation Returns to Portland

Jim Brickman, the Composer, pianist and performer whose dreamily romantic piano artistry and high-spirited, witty interaction with his audiences have made him one of America's most popular new concert performers.

Brickman has been called a songwriter of the nineties, who combines romantic lyricism with top forty hits. He revealed a whole new musical canvas earlier this year with the release of *Picture this*, which include the hit single "Valentine." A simple romantic ballad with vocals by country artist Martina McBride, the song gave Brickman his first number one hit at Adult Contemporary Radio.

His other top ten singles have included the popular songs "Angel Eyes" and "If You Believe" from his Windham Hill recording *By Heart*, and "Hero's Dream," a song he wrote for NBC-TV

coverage of the Summer Olympics in Atlanta. He became the first solo piano artist ever to appear on the pop charts with "Rocket to the Moon" from his first album, *No Words*.

Brickman selections with vocals are sung in concert by his long-time vocalist, Anne Cochran, who began singing with him when they were both high school students in Cleveland.

From his beginnings as a top-ranked commercial jingle writer Brickman has developed into a nationally-recognized concert performer, recording artist and host of a nationally syndicated radio show.

Jim Brickman will be performing at the Merrill Auditorium November 13, 1997 8:00 PM. Brickman selections with vocals are sung by his long-time high school friend Anne Cochran.

Portland Ballet Company

Eugenia L. O'Brien, Artistic Director, presents

A Schubert **SAMPLER**

An unforgettable evening of dance celebrating Franz Schubert
Featuring 4 world premieres:

- **Affair of the Heart**

by Roxanne Rigoloso

- **Impromptu**

by Andrei Bossov

- **Schubertiade**

by Andrew DiGiambattista

- **HBTY**

by Daielma Santos

Special Guest: Lawrence Golan, Violin
And an encore performance of Ravel's **Bolero**

Friday and Saturday
October 3 and 4, 7:30 p.m.

The Auditorium at Portland High School

All Seats \$12

Call The Portland Ballet Box Office

(207) 772-9671

A Tradition of Excellence Since 1980

Photograph by Stuart Nudelman

Community Pride Resources

ML/GPA

a state-wide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on L/G issues. Primary goals are to involve the L/G community in Maine's political process, promote civil rights, develop and review legislation, endorse candidates, build a coalition, and oppose anti-gay legislation and referenda. Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of every month in Augusta. FMI call 1-800-55-MLGPA.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

P-FLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Come and celebrate our children and friends just the way they are! (See listings for Maine & New Hampshire under PHONE SUPPORT and SUPPORT GROUPS.)

Northern Lambda Nord

an educational, informational, social, and service organization serving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people in northern Maine and New Brunswick. Meetings are 2nd Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2 pm (N-B), at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 S. Main St., Caribou. FMI write NLN, PO Box 990, Caribou, ME 04736-0990. The Phoneline is staffed every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7-9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or 1-800-468-2088

The Matlovich Society

An educational and cultural organization of lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, and friends committed to sharing our history as well as providing person-affirming presentations and discussions in a supportive environment. Meetings on the second and fourth Thursday every month at 7:30 pm at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St. Portland. Free parking and accessible to the mobility-impaired. Call 207-773-8308

National Association of Social Workers, ME.

Chapter, Sexual Minority Issues Committee welcomes new social work members. Our purpose is to educate, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving sexual minorities in Maine. FMI call NASW, 207-622-7592.

Hate Crimes & Bias Incidents:

Have you or someone you know been a victim? Call the Civil Rights Section of the Maine Department of the Attorney General at 626-8844.

Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights: (CAGLR).

New Hampshire's oldest progressive gay/lesbian civil rights organization, welcomes all those interested in these goals to weekly meetings, programs, socials and various other events. Newsletter. Call Info-line 603-224-1686 or write to PO Box 730, Concord, NH 03302-0730.

The Rainbow Business & Professional Association

A state-wide, non-profit organization established to create a gay, lesbian, bi and transgendered "chamber of commerce" for Maine. Meetings for networking or dinner with speaker events, held in the Greater Portland area, second Monday of the month. FMI write P.O. Box 6627, Scarborough, ME 04070-6627, call 207-775-0015 or e-mail wildboys@mainelink.net.

Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights

Trains and deploys volunteers state-wide to speak with citizen groups in their towns and regions about their lives and the lives of others who experience discrimination in Maine. For information on activities in your county: 207-879-0480 or write: MSOP, 123 Congress St., #1, Portland 04101. You need not be a speaker to work with Speakout!

Support Groups

New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings

Concord: Meets 3rd Sunday from 3-5 pm at 1st Congregational Church, Washington & North Main Streets. (use Washington St. entrance). FMI call 603-472-4944.

Seacoast: Meets 1st Tuesday from 7-9 pm at Stratham Community Church, Emery Lane, Stratham (1st right west of Rte 101 circle). FMI call 603-772-5196.

Plymouth: Meets 1st Sunday, 7-9 pm, Plymouth Congregational Church. FMI call 603-968-7254 or 603-786-9812.

Maine P-FLAG Meetings

Portland: Meets 2nd Tuesday 7-9 PM at Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords St. FMI call 207-766-5158 or 207-774-3441.

Brunswick/Bath: Brunswick-Bath Chapter of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) meets on the last Thursday of each month at 7 pm in the room across from the library, Mid-Coast Hospital, Brunswick. Please use the back door from the back parking lot. FMI call 207-729-0519.

Lewiston/Auburn: Meets last Sunday of the month from 6:30-8:30 pm. FMI call 207-783-9789.

Women's Center

Belfast: Weekly meetings, 9A Main St., 2nd floor (above Jaret & Cohn). Group meeting every Wednesday, 6:15 pm. Women's Spirituality Gatherings, Mondays 7-9 pm. FMI call 207-338-5702

NA: Just for Today

meetings every Wednesday, 8:15 pm, at St. Luke's Cathedral, State St., Portland. Use Park St. entrance in rear. Also Friday meeting, 8:00 pm, Immanuel Baptist Church, corner Deering & High St., Use entrance off Deering St.

OutandAbout

a lesbian support and educational group, meets on 1st & 3rd Wednesday monthly, 7:00 pm, United Methodist Church, 129 Miller Ave, Portsmouth, NH. FMI: POB 5691, Portsmouth, NH 03902, or call 603-430-5418.

Am Chofshi

A Maine Lesbian/Gay Jewish support group, meets monthly. FMI call 207-883-6004.

Exeter Congregational Church

United Church of Christ in Exeter, NH has adopted an Open and Affirming Statement & welcomes all God's children to worship, Sundays, 10 a.m. 21 Front St. (near Court St.) Co-pastors the Revs. Michael L.C. Henderson

& Jane Geffken Henderson. FMI call Ingrid at 603-772-6221.

Lesbian/Gay Catholics

The organization Dignity/Maine offers supportive Masses for LGBT Catholics & their friends/families. Meets every Sunday at 6:00 pm in St. Luke's Cathedral, side chapel, 143 State St., Portland. Coffee & dessert after the liturgy. FMI call Rosemary or Janet: 207-646-2820 or Laurie: 207-878-0546 or write: Dignity/Maine, POB 8113, Portland 04104. All replies kept confidential.

The Appollo Society

an out-reach, networking and social organization for New England's gay and lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists and Hellenes. Free speech/civil rights advocacy group offering freedom-from-religion support, religious de-programming and fun! FMI call 207-773-5726 or P.O. Box 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

Community of Hope

A Christian congregation which claims a primary ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Worship on Saturdays at 4:00 PM at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI write Community of Hope. POB 1671, Portland, ME 041014.

Central Maine Gay Men's Support Group

We provide a safe place to discuss issues going on in our lives or just to be with people in a safe non-alcoholic environment.

FMI call 207-621-1888 or 207-621-4254.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Discussion Group

1st and 3rd Fridays each month, 7-9 pm. First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland, ME. FMI call Larry Godfrey at 207-594-2957.

Support Group—Penobscot & Surrounding Counties

For men who have sex with men. Monthly meetings to talk about issues and concerns. Call 207-990-2095 for more info & meeting times.

Q-Squad

Support group for lesbian, gays, bi's & transgendered. Serving Franklin County, based at UM Farmington. FMI call and leave message at 207-778-7380.

TransSupport

Support group for crossdressers, transsexuals,

their families, friends. Meets in secure locations to provide support, education & social activities. Write TransSupport, P.O. Box 17622, Portland, 04112 or phone 207-945-3092.

Gender Talk North

Gender support. Write for newsletter, P.O. Box 421, Peterborough, NH 03458. 603-924-8828. E-mail gtnorth@top.monad.net Web page (under construction) <http://top.monad.net/~gtnorth/index.htm>

Trans Counseling

Cheshire Counseling Assoc., PO Box 1124, Keene, NH 03431. 603-357-5544.

Maine Bisexual People's Network

Meets as a part of Bisexual Discussion & Support Group (see listing below). For counseling &/or other bi support, write: P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME, 04104-6818

Bisexual Discussion & Support Group

Discussion and support group for women and men. Meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays monthly, 7:30-9 pm in room 1,

Payson Smith Hall, Falmouth st., University of So. ME, Portland. Open to non-students and students of all ages.

FMI Fax: SHOLMES@maine.maine.edu. or Call 780-3757 (private voice mail)

Prisoners of Gender

(Refusing to be Barbie, Ken or both). Meets every Friday at 1:15 pm at Davis Room, Memorial Union, UM at Orono

Lesbian/Bisexual Support Group

Meets every Tuesday, 7-9 PM, at Women's Resource Center 101 Fernald Hall at UM Orono. FMI call 207-581-1425.

Dover, NH

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered support Group meets Sundays 7-8 pm, Quaker Mtg. House, Central Ave. Social times too. FMI call 603-743-GAY2 eves.

Lewiston/Auburn

A new gay, lesbian, bisexual support group for the Lewiston/Auburn area meets Mondays at 7 pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on Spring St., Auburn.

Bangor Lesbian Support Group

This Lesbian Support Group welcomes any woman who self-identifies as a lesbian. They seek to

create woman-only, lesbian-positive space to explore issues and affirm themselves and each other as lesbians. Confidentiality, open-mindedness and respect are required. Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm

Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center
334 Harlow St., Bangor. FMI: call 207-947-5337.

SNAP

Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests. Monthly support group for men & women healing from sexual abuse by clergy of any denomination. Meets in Portland location on third Friday of the month. FMI call 207-774-5025.

DEGLO (Down East Gay & Lesbian Org.)

Meets 2nd Saturday of the month, 5:30 pm at the UU Church, Park Street, Bangor.

Maine Gender Resource & Support Service

Information, referrals and education for the transgender community, helping professionals and the general public. Write McGRess, PO Box 1894, Bangor, ME 04402-1894 or call 207-945-3092.

All Maine Transgender

Group Support for all Crossdressers, Transvestites, Transgenders, Transsexuals. All inclusive group, gay, lesbian, bi, straight. Confidential and discreet, Bangor meeting place. Meets the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Call 207-947-1686 for time and place, or FMI write AMT PO. Box 145 Brewer, ME 04412.

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group

For dates, places and times write GLB Parents Group, P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME 04104.

Mothers and Kids Group

Social events and group support for lesbians and their children. Emphasis on inclusion of lesbians in the process of becoming pregnant or adopting. Meets monthly in the greater Portland area. FMI write: P.O. Box 2235, South Portland, ME 04116.

Gladd to be Sober

Meets Wednesdays at 7:30 pm at the North Church - at the corner of north Main and Washington Streets - in Concord NH. Use the Washington street entrance.

HIV Related Support Meetings

Portland:

Mondays: People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, partners & caregivers, 6:30-8:00 PM.

Tuesdays: People living with HIV disease and all friends, families, lovers and caregivers, 10:30 am-Noon. TAP, 142 High Street Suite 632, Portland, ME 04101.

2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Living Well focusing on quality of life and empowerment.

Wednesdays: Drop-in discussion group for married/gay/bisexual/questioning men. FMI call Gerry at 207-774-6877.

1st Wednesday: PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), 5:30 pm. Call 775-PAWS. Charles Wynott, Program Coordinator.

Thursdays: People living with HIV meets from 5:30-7 pm. TAP, 142 High Street Suite 632, Portland, ME 04101.

2nd Thursday: Client Advisory Board, open to all clients of The AIDS Project, 1:30 pm.

The above Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 142 High St., 6th floor. except the Tuesday group, Living Well. FMI on that call Sandy Titus at Stratogen Health Care. Call Jane O'Rourke at 207-774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 for more information.

Family and Friends Accepting Change Together (FFACT), a support group sponsored by Northern Maine AIDS Network for friends, families & careproviders. Meets every 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm, at the Aroostook Medical Center,

conference room A. Presque Isle. FMI, Deb Madore of Health 1st, 207-768-3056 or 1-800-432-7881.

Auburn: People living with HIV disease, Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 pm at Auburn Family Planning. Call Diana Carrigan, Androscoggin and Oxford Case Manager and Support Services Coordinator for TAP at the Auburn office, 207-783-7301.

Bangor: Man 2 Man HIV prevention program for men who have sex with men. M2M offers education, HIV testing, support groups, HIV/AIDS Hotline and workshops. To volunteer or FMI on the program call 207-990-2095 or write: Man 2 Man, POB 2038, Bangor, ME 04402.

Children's Support Group: Fun activities and outings for children who are affected by HIV/AIDS. Meetings are held twice monthly on Mondays 3:30pm - 5:00pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, Park St., behind City Hall in Bangor. FMI call 207-990-3626.

Women's Support Group: Women living with HIV, meets the last Wednesday of each month 10:45am - 12:00pm. Call 207-990-3626.

Biddeford: People affected or infected by HIV, Mondays, 5:30-7:00 pm. So. ME. Medical Center classroom opposite cafeteria on 2nd floor. Call John Bean, York County Case Manager, 207-774-6877.

Farmington: Thursdays: 6:30-8:30 pm. HIV+ support group. Call Christie Foster at Tri-County Health Services, 778-4553, for location.

Gardiner: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays: People Living with HIV meets from 1:30-3 pm at the KVRHA Annex. Call MASS at 725-4955.

Kennebunk: Drop-in discussion group every Tuesday for married/gay/bisexual/questioning men at TAP Office, Lafayette Center, downtown Kennebunk. FMI call Gerry at 207-774-6877.

Lewiston: 4th Thursday: Great Sexpectations monthly drop-ins for gay, bi & questioning men of all ages. 7:00-10:00 PM, ACLA office (4 Lafayette St.) FMI, Sean-207/786-4697.

Rumford/Mexico Area: Mondays: AIDS Support Group/Phoneline meets from 7-8:30 pm at Mexico Congregational Church, Main Street, Mexico. Call 364-8603.

New Hampshire:

Derry area: Support group open to anyone infected with AIDS/HIV. Hosted by the Ecumenical AIDS Task Force, at St. Thomas Aquinas. FMI or reservations, call Jane Dwyer at 603-432-7530.

Keene: Support group for families, friends, partners of persons living with AIDS or who have died of AIDS. Confidential & anonymous. Meets every other Wed., at Planned Parenthood, 7-8:30 pm. Call Dorothy Anderson at 603-756-4735.

Keene: Support group for HIV positive people and those living with AIDS meets alternate Mon. 6:30 pm. For details call Schultz, 603-357-5270.

Lebanon/Hanover: ACoRN offers support groups, case management, community referrals and HIV prevention programs for people in the Upper Valley. FMI call John or Mark at 800-816-2220.

Monadnock Region: For info., referrals, testing, buddies, speakers & volunteer opportunities call AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region at 603-357-6855 or 1-800-639-7903 or call United Way Help-Line, 1-800-368-4357.

Nashua area: Two weekly self-help groups for those infected with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS. For times, dates and locations, call 603-595-8464.

N.H. Seacoast "Connections" support group for care givers, parents, families and friends, all those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS. "Connections" meets every month on second Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Exeter Congregational Church 21 Front St. Exeter, NH. Discussions, information sharing and support are offered in a friendly and private atmosphere. FMI 603-772-6221, or 603-436-8963.

Peterborough: Support group for family, partners and friends whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS meets Tues. at noon. Call Maria Rosario-603-924-7191, ext. 1126 for details.

Winnepesaukee Region: HIV/AIDS support group meets Wednesdays from 7-9 pm at Lakes Region General Hospital. FMI call Wayne at 603-524-3211 ext 3900.

Phone Support By Region

National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Project: 1-800-528-NCLR.

Man 2 Man hotline -Providing HIV/AIDS information, and referrals for identity and emotional support services. Staffed Mon-Fri. 8:30 - 4:30. Call 207-990-2095 or in Maine 1-800-429-1481.

Gay & Lesbian Phoneline of Maine: Staffed Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7 pm - 9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or (Maine) 800-468-2088.

Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (BAGLY): 1-800-347-TEEN.

National Hotline for gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender youth. Sponsored by the Indianapolis Youth Group. Staffed & trained, peer youth counselors. Lines are open Sunday thru Thursday 7-10 pm, Friday and Saturday 7 pm to midnight. Confidential and anonymous. Call 1-800-347-TEEN

HIV/AIDS Prevention Project: Staffed Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7 - 9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or (Maine) 800-468-2088

The AIDS Line: 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. HIV/AIDS related questions, call Mon.-Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Mon. & Wed. evenings until 7:30 pm. Anonymous.

DIAL KIDS: For lesbian, gay, bi & questioning youth under 19 yrs. 774-TALK.

Ingraham Volunteers: Call 774-HELP (774-4357).

The AIDS Project 774-6877. Located at 142 High St., 6th floor, Portland 04101. Call for information and support group meetings in Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick.

Bangor: Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626

Penobscot County: HIV/AIDS Hotline-1-800-429-1481

Belfast: Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427

Brunswick: Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995

Bridgton: Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608 -

Rumford: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170

Lewiston: AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn: 786-4697

Waterville: Dayspring: 626-3435

Ellsworth: Down East AIDS Network: 667-3506

Oxford Hills: Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: 743-7451.

Mid coast: Gay men's HELP LINE, 6:00-9:00 pm (only) M-F 207-863-2728. FAX 207-863-2794. Also, gay youth info.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG) Contacts in Maine (* indicates monthly meetings)

Augusta/Hallowell: 623-2349 - F.E.

*Dover-Foxcroft: 564-7986 - Sharon

*Brunswick/Bath: 729-0519 - Sally & Gene

*Lewiston/Auburn: 783-6964 - Estelle

*Portland: Rita, 766-5158 or Sue, 774-3441

Waldoboro: Sue - 832-5859

CONTACTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

P-FLAG NH 24 hour Helpline: 603-623-6023

New Hampshire: Teen Crisis Line - 1-800-639-6095.

Concord: Judy, 603/485-3943

Webster: Betsy, 603/746-3818

Nashua: Nancy, 603/880-8709

Kensington: Nora/John, 603/772-3893

Stratham: Betty, 603/772-5196

Francetown: Cy/Gordon, 603/547-2545

Holderness: Olivia, 603/968-7254

Rumney: Ann, 603/786-9812

Center Sandwich: Tish, 603/284-6434

DOVER,

NH:

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Helpline for information, referral or need to talk. M-F 6-10 pm, Sat.-Sun. 9am-2pm. 603/743-GAY2.

Maine AIDs Alliance

Maine AIDS Alliance: 39 Green Street, Augusta, ME 04330. Call 207-621-2924. Fax: 207-622-2662.

AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn: P.O. Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04243. Call 207-786-4697.

AIDS Lodging House: 142 High Street Suite 609, Portland, ME 04101. Call 207-773-7165.

Camp Chrysalis: PO Box 990, Belfast, Maine 04915. Call 207-3338-5089.

Community AIDS Awareness Program: PO Box 457, Rumford, ME 04276. Call 207-364-8603.

Community Task Force on AIDS Education: PO Box 941, Naples, ME 04055.

Dayspring AIDS Support Services: 32 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME 04330. Call 207-626-3432.

Down East AIDS Network: 114 State St., Ellsworth, ME 04605. Call 207-667-3506.

Eastern Maine AIDS Network: PO

Box 2038, Bangor, ME 04401. Call 207-990-3626.

Merrymeeting AIDS Support Service: PO Box 57, Brunswick, ME 04011. Call 207-725-4955.

Names Project/Maine: P.O. Box 10248, Portland, ME 04104. Call 207-774-2198.

Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: PO Box 113, Paris, ME 04271. Call 207-743-7451.

Peabody House: 14 Orchard St., Portland, ME 04102. Call 207-774-6281.

People With AIDS Coalition of ME: 696 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101. Call 773-8500.

The AIDS Project (TAP): PO Box 5305, Portland, ME 04101. Web page - www.neis.net/aidsproject. E-mail - aidsproj@neis.net Call 207-774-6877.

Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Call 207-338-1427.

Medical Support

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

Serving men and women, offering annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control info. & supplies (free condoms!), testing and treatment for infections and STD's, menopause support and more. Evening hours, affordable services, and complete confidentiality. Medicaid welcome. 970 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call 207-874-1095.

FREE FAMILY THERAPY

available for individuals & families (of any type) who are affected by HIV disease. FMI, contact Chris Behan, MSW at Center for Training and Special Programs. 207-773-6658.

Teen Life Center

Youth Clinic sponsored by City of Portland Public Health, Monday-Friday (10:00-11:30 am) The homeless health team's youth clinic is a place where you can receive free health care in a friendly environment. Located on Chestnut St. across from Portland High School. Confidential health services with access to other support you may need. Drop in between 10 to 10:45 am.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic

Portland STD Clinic provides full range of services from screening & treatment, education & counseling and HIV antibody testing and counseling. Located in Room 303 of City Hall. Anonymous HIV testing by appointment on weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm. Call 207-874-8784. For other STD services: 207-874-8446.

Coping with Caregiving

Provides support for those caring for a disabled or chronically/terminally ill person. Group meets on 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at noon at Mercy Hospital Board Room, sixth floor. FMI call 207-879-3477.

Breast self-exam classes

The Breast Health Resource Center at Mercy Hospital is offering free self-exam classes to teach women how to perform breast self-exams, what to look for, what a lump might feel like, and what to do if you find something that doesn't seem right. Classes are on the 3rd Thursday of the month on the 5th floor. FMI, or to register, call 207-879-3791.

Youth Support

OUTRIGHT

Bangor: Fridays 5:00-7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, Park St., behind City Hall in Bangor. FMI call 207-990-3626.

Outright Too: Supportive, informative and social meetings for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning youth age 22 and under. Safe place for questions, growth, and fun. Held twice monthly. FMI call 207-990-3626, Shawn or Shannetta

Lewiston/Auburn: Meets first and third Fridays. Confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, & questioning youth 22 years and under. Call 786-2717 for more information.

Portland: Meets every Fri., 7:30-9:30 pm, The People's Building, 155 Brackett St., 2nd floor, Portland. Safe & supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning young people. FMI call 774-TALK, or 774-HELP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME. 04101.

Waldo-Knox: Meets every other Sunday in Camden for g/l/b or questioning youth 22 & under. Confidential, supportive, safe space for growth, discussion & fun. FMI Lisa at Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition 338-1427 or write P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Collect calls okay.

Concord: Meets every Thurs., 7-9 pm at UU Church, 274 Pleasant St., next to con-

cord Hospital & Orthopedics Clinic. 603/664-9169.

Monadnock: Meets every Thurs., 7-9 pm at "The Place To Go", 46 Concord St. (Rt. 202 N), Peterborough, 603/547-2545.

Nashua: Meets every 2nd & 4th Thursday at UU Church corner of Canal & Lowell Sts. (near Dunkin Donuts). Call Steve or Gypsy at 603/672-0792. Email: OutrightNH@AOL.com

Seacoast: Meets every Sun. 5-7 pm (movie night), Tues. 6-8 pm (drop in), & Friday from 7 to 9 pm (support group) at the UU Church Annex (next to fire station), 206 Court St., Portsmouth NH. FMI call 603/431-1013, P.O. Box 842, Portsmouth NH 03801.

COLAGE

A national support group run by and for the children of gay, lesbian or bisexual parents. FMI call COLAGE, 2300 Market St., #165, Dept. P, San Francisco, CA 94114.

THE MAINE YOUTH PROTECTION COUNCIL

Works to create safer communities and schools for minority youth. If racism or homophobia affect you, help be part of the solution. Call 207-775-4944 for information on the council and sub-committees. There is a place for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Social Groups

Maine Frontrunners: a gay and lesbian running club sponsoring weekly run in Portland. We meet at the beginning of Back Cove Walkway (corner Baxter Blvd. & Preble St. Ext.), Saturdays, 9 am. FMI call Jim 761-2059 or John 828-4896.

Out on MDI: For gays, lesbians, bi's and our friends. Very active social/support group. Meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Newcomers always welcome. FMI, write OUT ON MDI, PO Box 367, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679-0367 or call 207-288-2502 and leave a message.

SOLO: Monthly Gatherings for Older, Single Lesbians: for fun & friendship. FMI call Kathy 207-688-4737 or 207-725-0179.

W.O.W. (Wild Outdoor Women): Recreational group meets monthly for outdoor activities followed by pot luck socials. Activities: biking, hiking, camping, canoeing, kayaking. FMI: Jen @ 207-787-2379

Wilde-Stein Club: Meets every Thursday at 6:30 pm at Memorial Union, Sutton Lounge, UM at Orono.

ALMA: Active Lesbians of the Monadnock Area (formerly the Monadnock Area Women) meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. FMI call 603-363-4961.

Dartmouth Women's Meeting: Meets every Monday at 9 pm at the Women's Resource Center, Dartmouth College. FMI call 603-646-3636.

LINC: Lesbians Inviting New Connections. A network serving women in New England. FMI call Pauli at 603-668-9245.

Mountain Valley Men (MVM): A group of gay men of all ages in northeastern New Hampshire and southwestern Maine who get together for potluck supper meetings at 6:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month at the Center of Hope in Redstone(NH); outdoor activities and meetings are listed in the monthly newsletter; FMI: MVM, Box 36, Ctr Conway, NH 03813; Paul or Dave at 207-925-1034; e-mail DFISPALP@AOL.COM.

Seacoast Gay Men: Social group meets Mondays (except holidays), 7 pm Unitarian Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI call (603) 430-4052, or write P.O. Box 1394, Portsmouth 03802-1394.

Women Meeting Women: Lesbian social/support group meeting monthly at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on the 2nd Saturday of the every month from 2:30 - 6 pm. FMI call Dianne at 603-881-4268, or by e-mail DBalbat@aol.com.

Chiltern Mountain Club: Gay and Lesbian outdoor organization with about 1,200 members throughout New England. Activities include hiking, back packing, biking, canoeing, skiing ect. Monthly newsletter listing trips each month. Call either Tracy Green at 207-828-2535 or Mike Boisvert at 603-669-1936.

Online/Internet

The Maine GayNet Mail List

Share your ideas and opinions with other list members. To subscribe to this list, send e-mail to majordomo@abacus.oxxy.edu. In the message part, write "subscribe me-gaynet"

The Maine GayNet Home Page

An ever-changing display of events and information. Meetings, contact people, resources, & referrals. Point your WEB

Browser to: <http://www.qrd.org/www/usa/maine>. FMI e-mail Paula Stockholm: paula@maine.com.

San Francisco Gay/Lesbian Tourism Guide

An online merchant-sponsored Internet website geared to gay and lesbian travellers to the San Francisco area. It is compatible with most mainstream web browsers. Address: www.gaysf.com

Music & Art

Women In Harmony

an eclectic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteering organizational skills, send SASE (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 5136 Sta. A, Portland, ME. 04101, or call 207/774-4940.

Maine Gay Men's Chorus

a community chorus which brings men together to enhance social tolerance and di-

versity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 774-2704 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME. 04104.

The Maine Gay Visual Artist's League

meets on the third Wednesday of every month. The League is a non-profit, creative support network for Maine's gay & lesbian visual artists community. FMI call 775-3420.

October Calendar

October 3 and 4

Portland Ballet Company A Schubert Sampler: Affair of the Heart - Impromptu - Schubertiade - HBTY FMI 207-772-9671

Friday October 3

8:00 P.M. LA Arts presents Lisa McCormick w/ Jonathan Edwards Lewiston Middle School Auditorium FMI 207-782-7228

October 5

2:00 P.M. Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network October meeting. At the Downeast AIDS Network, 114 State Street, Ellsworth. GLSEN works to make all schools safe for all students of any sexual orientation. Open to all interested persons. FMI 207-359-2347 or 207-667-2358.

October 9

7:30 - 9:00 Matlovich Society "Silent Pioneers" is a remarkable, up-

beat documentary about America's older lesbians and gay men. Using the first-hand experiences of an eclectic group of people, "Silent Pioneers" taps into the very personal nature of a less tolerant era. A panel discussion will follow, led by Gerry Banner and other members of the older lesbian and gay community. Holiday Inn By the Bay 88 Spring Street, Portland. Free Hotel Parking.

Monday October 13

7:15 P.M. VNA and Hospice and American Cancer Society, Guidance in Grieving. Methodist Church Elm Street, So. Portland. FMI Grace Moulton, RN 207-799-3179 or Rev. Tom White 207-799-0407.

Saturday October 18

8:00 P.M. LA Arts presents Berg, Jones & Sarvis, Glacial Drifts Schaeffer Theatre, Bates College FMI 207-782-7228

Sunday October 19

2:00 P.M. LA Arts presents Berg, Jones & Sarvis, Glacial Drifts Schaeffer Theatre, Bates College FMI 207-782-7228

Tuesday October 21

VNA & Hospice Adult Immunization Clinic/ Health screening clinic for adults, minimum age: 18 Visiting Nurse Association & hospice 50 Foden Road, So. Portland: Appointment Required. FMI 207-780-8624.

October 23

7:30 - 9:00 Matlovich Society Bob Gordon "Big Tobacco's love affair with Gay and Lesbian California" Bob is a former Mainer who currently work in San Francisco. He is a Smoke Free Advocate currently working with bar owners getting ready for California's January 1, 1998

prohibition on smoking in bars. The Smoke Free Project was started by Bob to expose how the tobacco industry is going after the gay community and to show how to fight back. The group's aim is not to preach that the gay community should quit smoking but to battle the pro-smoking advertising that has taken over parts of San Francisco. Listen to what Bob has to say, and think of what might be in store for Maine! Holiday Inn By the Bay 88 Spring Street, Portland. Free Hotel Parking.

November 1

8:00 P.M. L/A Arts presents the New Orleans-style trumpet player Nicholas Payton along with his band. Lewiston Middle School Auditorium. FMI 1-800-639-2919.

David Aden Gallery & FotoFactory Press are currently accepting submissions for FotoFactory Anthology 3: UNIFORMS. A hardbound catalog will be published to coincide with a touring exhibition of the same images.

Photographs Wanted: Documentary or fine art photographs of men both nude and clothed, in & out of uniforms of any kind: Military, Police, Firemen, Sports, Utility, Custodial & Work clothes. Photographs of men in the armed forces and veteran's personal snap-shots of war time photos are also encouraged.

Photographs may be in black & white or color. All submissions must be 8" x 10" prints or slides. The photographer's name and photo title must appear on each photo or slide submitted. If you would like us to return your material, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelop with your submissions. Once a final selection has been made, the photographer will receive a contract from us outlining the terms.

Submissions for our UNIFORMS Anthology must be received no later than 01 November 1997. All photos should be sent to our new address:

FotoFactory Press
350 Sunset Avenue #4
Venice, CA 90291

Voice 310-396-2949
Fax 310-396-2949
E-mail: conrad@fotofactory.com

FREE POETRY CONTEST

A \$1,000.00 grand prize will be awarded in a free poetry contest sponsored by Hollywood's Famous Poets Society.

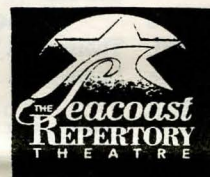
The contest is open to everyone and entry is free. Every poem entered also has an opportunity to be published in a luxurious, hardbound anthology.

To enter, send one original poem copy 21 lines or less to: Free Poetry Contest, 1040 Fairfax Ave., Suite 208, W. Hollywood, California 90046 or go to www.famouspoets.com.

The poem may be written on any subject, using any style. The poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page.

Entries must be postmarked -- or sent via the Internet -- by the deadline of October 22, 1997.

Beginners are welcome!



Wanted: Girls, Boys, Men, Women, and Dog Auditions for Annie/Pinnocchio at SRT

Portsmouth, NH - Seacoast Repertory Theatre will hold auditions for the musical ANNIE on Sunday and Monday, October 5 and 6. The production is directed by Eileen Rogosin, co-founder of the Seacoast Rep. Rehearsals begin the first week of November, and performances are December 10, 1997 through January 11, 1998.

- * ANNIE Auditions for all children will be held Sunday, October 5, beginning at 6 p.m.
- * ANNIE Auditions for adults will be held Monday, October 7, beginning at 7 p.m.
- * ANNIE Auditions for Sandy the dog will be held Monday, October 7, beginning at 4 p.m.

For additional information contact:
Kim Norman 603-433-4793 x 114

Auditions for the SRT Youth Theatre Production of PINNOCHIO will be held on Thursday, October 9 at 4 p.m. The production is directed by Tad Allan Doyle. Rehearsals begin October 18. Performances are November 8 through November 30.

Singing and non-singing parts are available for children and adults of all ages. Auditionees must call the theatre at (603) 433-4793 for an audition time. Please come in comfortable clothing and bring a prepared song with you.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE.....BE A BUDDY!

If you have 2 hours a week to spare, you can make a difference by being Buddy. Buddies make a one year commitment to provide emotional and practical support to persons living with HIV or AIDS.

With funding from the Greater Seacoast United Way, AIDS Response-Seacoast is conducting a four day Buddy training program on October 18/19 and 25/26.

Buddy volunteers will be trained to provide one on one emotional and practical support to persons living with HIV/AIDS.

1 Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, NH
03801

If you are interested in volunteering, or want to know more, please call Al Forbes at AIDS Response-Seacoast, (603) 433-5377 or (800) 375-1144 (from NH or Maine).

Bi Space: "Bi 101"

by Bobbi Keppel and Pete Chvany

Last month Bobbi and I introduced ourselves. This month, while Bobbi's on vacation, I'll discuss bisexuality as an "orientation." Think of this column as a course in Bisexuality 101. Don't worry: no quizzes!

It's important when talking about sexuality to distinguish "orientations" from people's behavior, attractions, fantasies, and identities. Let's take a concrete example. A straight friend recently told me that he slept with both males and females in his youth.

He said that he enjoyed his same-sex experiences, but that women had consistently **attracted** him more powerfully than men. Since he is monogamous and married, he chooses to **identify** as straight. An observer might note his "bisexual" history and his potential for future bisexual or even exclusively gay **behavior**.

But since that potential appears small, his self-identification seems consistent. Perhaps in **fan-*

*tasy** my friend's feelings for men differ from his outward expressions. But maybe he fantasizes about women while staying monogamous with his wife. Many people prefer to keep their fantasies fantastic.

I know a gay man who has been strongly attracted to a few women and a straight woman who loves Dana Scully from "The X-Files." These folks behave consistently with their identities, though their attractions and fantasies sometimes go in other directions.

With these distinctions in mind, we can define bisexuality several ways. In one sense, bisexuality is just the ability to be **attracted**, sexually and romantically, to people of more than one gender. This definition focuses on emotional qualities, on attractions and fantasies. (It often implies that the attraction is to the two better-known genders of male and female, but there can be overlaps between the bi and transgender communities as well.)

We can also think of bisexuality as an **identity** which considers the ability to be attracted to members of more than one gender important. Some bi folk have attractions to both genders but have not yet found circumstances that feel right for expressing them for one gender.

We live in a culture which regards direct experience as the best proof of a person's "real feelings." But the feelings of gay and lesbian youth who know they are only attracted to their own gender before they have had sex make it reasonable for some people to identify as bi, even if they are celibate or have only had sexual relationships with one gender so far.

Clearly one can also identify as bisexual given one's sexual and emotional history of involvement with people of more than one gender. A woman in a long-term monogamous lesbian relationship might still identify as bisexual if she considered previous relationships with both men and women important to her self-conception.

And some bisexuals identify as

both gay/lesbian and bisexual depending on the context. When coming out, I knew that many people who don't understand bisexuality would see me as a gay man. I decided to get comfortable with this "mistake," and to proudly call myself a gay man at times, because disavowing my homosexuality would be homophobic.

The fact that my behavior is not exclusively homosexual is a separate issue from my commitment to ending the oppression of gay men and lesbians. As another friend put it, "someone can identify as bisexual and have attractions to, fantasies about, romantic relationships, and sex with members of more than one gender."

However, one can identify as gay, lesbian, or straight as have all these, also. And one can identify as bisexual and NOT have one or more of these."

Next month, we'll discuss some common myths and stereotypes about bi's and bisexuality. Till then, class dismissed!

Trans Forum: As I was saying.....

by Daralyn S Maxwell

It becomes obvious, even and especially to someone for whom there are no immediate benefits, that in order to have a solid and cohesive community, there needs to be participation of some sort from all quarters.

Of late I have noticed that, despite the best of intentions, the actual activity generated by various members of the (gay) community always seems to rest on a few intrepid souls while the rest of the populace does a fair bit of armchair quarterbacking, second-guessing, and out and out criticism of those who are actually working for the common good. The question becomes: The common good of whom?

I will remove myself as a beneficiary of this because the Christians aren't interested in transgendered women at the moment. On top of that, even if the Equal Rights bill withstands the latest "wrath of God", nowhere does it specify that I or any other transgendered person will enjoy the same protection under the law

that the rest of the gay community will. But where are the people who will be enjoying this?

There is a lot of *The Little Red Hen* in this scenario, mostly because no one wants to pick the wheat (get signatures), chafe the wheat (help raise money OR contribute), mill the flour (show up for anything as a sign of support), or bake the bread (all of the above!). The fact is that for every reason why someone should be involved, they find a myriad reasons why they shouldn't. In the end, though, if the measure is defeated by a rollback referendum, where do we place the blame?

Let's start with MLGPA; undermanned and underfunded. Moving on to MWD, half of the community has MWD out of the picture as out of the loop. So who's in the loop? And when is this loop going to manifest itself into something tangible that coordinates and energizes people to make a stand that they have had enough of being discriminated against? And why would I,

as a transgendered person, get all riled up this way? Very simple: I'm next.

When the time comes that the community has what they want then I and others like me are going to ask for OUR place in the sun. If I stand around deciding that this issue or that issue doesn't suit me at the moment because it won't afford me immediate relief, then I am truly not looking ahead at the long-term, and my future will be as shaky as the amount of effort I did not put into it. And where, you might ask, are MY solutions? I didn't say I had any.

However, I do think that in the long run it is in the best interest of every member of the g/l/b/t community to extend themselves just that little bit extra. You don't have to be rich to send MLGPA, MWD or some other useful organization your anonymous \$10. You don't have to be OUT to patronize a business that is gay-owned, gay-friendly and in need of your patronage. You certainly don't have to put your picture in the paper that you made some phone calls or

stuffed envelopes.

What you do have to do is think about the people fighting for you. While you are doing that, write your own letter to a company that you know has discriminatory practices; boycott a business that you know doesn't support the community; let others know what you are up to, and be receptive to their ideas and input.

While I am not necessarily an immediate beneficiary of forward politics, I am assured that whenever equal rights encompassing ALL members of the HUMAN community become a reality, I will know that I wasn't snoozing on the sidelines because it was less painful than extending myself that little bit. Besides, it is OUR community, and those damn Christians can't have it!

Your choice: Be heard, and get to the polls, or get cozy with your closet.

Dal Maxwell can be found ranting and raving in Portland, Maine. Reach her through CPR or by e-mail at dalmax@ime.net.

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Reporter**

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The Community Pride Reporter is printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks. This practice reflects our commitment to responsible use of our earth's resources.

Using recycled paper sometimes results in the paper having a toned down or grayish tinge. However, we feel this is a small price to pay as Community Pride Reporter does it's part to "color ME Green."

Cranky Observations

by C.M. Brennan

All this blather from Michael Heath and the Christian Civic League has me pondering the ramifications of this new referendum drive. Suppose it were to succeed? Beyond all effort, all desire to defeat the paranoid legions, what if they pull it off? Oh, it's a very scary thought....the kind that ruins entire evenings and healthy appetites. If there are no assurances for equal access to housing, jobs, credit and services for gays and lesbians, does that mean, by extension, there is also no assurance for similarly equal access for heterosexuals?

Here's a snide and biting thought: What if all lesi/gay/bi/trans proprietors and businessfolk ran their operations with an eye toward curbing the heterosexual menace? They with their amazing capacity for reproduction, hypocritical religious views, and government tax breaks! It's enough to make any struggling homofamily sick — why can't those straight people pony up a buck and pay their way like we do? Sure would improve the economy! And so, the mood sweeps through the state as, one by one, doors that were previously open begin a slow shift closed. What would the impact be....?

I imagine a phone ringing on the front desk of a swanky B&B in Ogunquit. The owner, astute business man and faboo designer, takes a call from a gent in Augusta:

"Thank you for calling Escape to Ogunquit. How may I help you?"

"Ah, yes," says the caller. "I'd

like to make a reservation for Columbus Day weekend."

"Thank you, sir. For how many?"

"Ah, two. Only two. It's our first anniversary."

"How sweet! Are you married to a man or a woman?"

"Excuse me?"

"Are you married to a man or a woman? We have strict regulations about letting rooms to heterosexual couples. It upsets the balance of the Inn's energy, you see."

"But, we spent our wedding night there!"

"Oh, tut, tut! Times change! I'm sorry, but if you are bringing your wife, I'm afraid I cannot give you a room. You are welcome to stay by yourself, if you're not too obvious about it. Don't want you flashing your wedding ring all over the place — makes the guests sooo uncomfortable."

"But...but...my money is the same as every one else's! I've stayed there before and it was never a problem!"

"Oh, I'm sure you have. But now that Maine has denied gays and lesbians the right to housing, jobs, credit and services, it's more important than ever that gay-owned businesses and services support the community. I just cannot give up a room to a straight couple when there's probably a lesbian family who needs it. I'm sure you and your...wife...can understand that."

"You can't do that!! That's discrimination!!!!"

"You're darn tootin', honey. And there isn't a single thing you can do about it, either. No more than I can."

* * * * *

This could be just the tip of the iceberg. An entire segment of the population could throw up its weary hands in resignation and capitulate to the temptation of resentment and revenge...

"Welcome to Weeds and Seeds: do you prefer the vegetarian section or environmental degradation?"

"Vegetarian, please."

"All right then. Sir, I trust that the woman accompanying you is your sister?"

"No, man, s'my girlfriend."

"I'm sorry. I'll have to ask you to leave. We don't serve your kind here."

"But...."

"This is a lesbian cooperative dining establishment. No smoking, no polyester, no leather, no alcohol, no perfume, no chemicals, no preservatives, no heterosexual couples. We want our customers to feel comfortable, not threatened that you are going to try and take the place over or, goddess forbid, touch each other. Thank you and have a nice day."

* * * * *

Sound extreme? Sure it does. Sound unlikely? Not when you consider that similar scenarios have been acted out for years against our community, scenarios which could flourish should the Radical Right have its way. There certainly are those who would act with impunity upon their fears should LD 1116 be rescinded. Having experienced firsthand the grace with which we have handled our various setbacks, I highly doubt our community as an entity will be counted among those numbers...but it sure is tempting to think about sometimes, ain't it?

Portland Obscenities

by Micheal Rosettie

Earlier this year the Fine Arts Cinema was denied it's license to operate as possibly the last chapter in an ongoing battle over sexual activity there. The City of Portland has followed up that move with an effectively door shutting decision by an obscenity jury to fine the Treasure Chest, a small adult video and print store, thousands of dollars for violating Portland's obscenity ordinance.

The Fine Arts was reputed to be a highly active location for sexual activity within the theater's audience area and secluded niches. That reputation coupled with the City's and community's perceived state of denial over risky and generally obscene behavior prompted Rick McPheason, a former Casco Weekly article contributor, to submit a published article

on the theater.

The subsequent Police raid and arrests led to outrage in Portland's gay and lesbian community, along with a resentment of Police Chief Chitwood and both CBW and McPheason. The outrage was further fueled by the timing of the article, just weeks before a major statewide vote on anti-gay legislation.

The recent denial of license to the Theater follows continue allegations of "gross sexual activity" that assists Portland Police Chief Chitwood's attempts to shut the Fine Arts down. Chitwood has referred to the Theater as "a slime pit" causing many to believe that along with other similar activity by Chitwood is evidence of a larger plan to regulate morality.

The situation has become more complicated with Council Geraghty, whose

district includes the Fine Arts, known as Waynes', had viewing booths with large waist height holes drilled between the booths, as the owner claimed, to allow ventilation. The City did not accept that description of the holes, nor accept the activity similar to the Fine Arts that was reputed to occur there.

The shop was forced to close the holes and clean up it's act, eventually closing its doors. The subject of the Fine Arts, Rick McPheason's commentaries and the Treasure Chest have also been largely debated publicly. The pages of recent issues of the Casco Bay Weekly are ripe with letters complaining about both the enforcement efforts and McPheason. As well, me-gay-net has been bombarded with emails debating morality, enforcement, and again, the now San Francisco bound McPheason.

Christianity Choice

by Emanuel Vassey

What I don't get is why more people (myself included) don't counter the "lifestyle choice" argument by pointing out that religious belief and practice is even more clearly a "lifestyle choice." Nobody is innately Christian, or Muslim, or Hindu, or Jewish (in the sense of faith, not ethnic origin). They are raised in and indoctrinated into these faith traditions. This renders their entire argument moot, because they then have no rational defense for giving *their* lifestyle choice special rights (we know they already have them, but it would make

them own up to it) when that's what they claim to be against.

They can't argue morality, either, because many things a Christian would consider benign (e.g., eating pork or cheeseburgers) would be morally repugnant to a Muslim or orthodox Jew, and not all faith traditions are homophobic (my own religious belief is that queerness is next to godliness :). They can claim divine authority all they want, but unless they can prove which divinity, or interpretation of any particular divinity, is the true authority (Will the real God please stand up.) That entire argument falls into meaningless-

ness, leaving them with nothing but "because I said so."

I think getting to that point would make it a lot easier for us to counter their other lies, because it's what helps make their filth so palatable to the fence-sitters in the first place. Furthermore, I think it would make people face up to the indoctrinated sexphobia that makes many otherwise "liberal" people uncomfortable with us in the first place. Not that it would fix things magically, but it's a strategy I haven't heard discussed and I've felt for some time that it deserves consideration. Any thoughts?

Letter to the Editor: Equal Not Special

Ted Blanche had something with his suggestion of Equal Not Special. In my local edition of the Lewiston Sun yesterday there was a "Heard on the Street" which asked people in Jay and Livermore Falls "Do you think there should be a special law to forbid discrimination against gays and lesbians?" You can imagine the responses to this leading question.

They handed these folks the word "special." They showed six responses. One woman just did the "against god's law" thing. One woman actually responded that people should all be treated the same, no matter what they do in bed (Hooray- but only one out of six!) Another said that we did not need special rights because we are no different than anyone else.

Two people said that the constitution already prohibits discrimination. Frustrating, but these last three are reachable. We need to get the word out that OUR rights are not protected by the constitution.

They need to hear stories of discrimination in housing, jobs, etc. Yes, I know we did all this at the hearing, but that "special rights" lie is very powerful!

I believe we also need to call them on that lie. When our enemies say "special rights" why don't we ask them why they are lying? Especially since this is also becoming a moral issue. Hello!! Homosexuality is not even mentioned in the 10 commandments, but lying sure is.

So people out there are hearing this powerful lie about "special rights." It is only natural that they resent that, after all, many of us resent that legal marriage confers many special rights we do not have access to. I think we have to do our best to kill the "special rights" argument.

They think we are covered under the constitution already, and must be looking for some "extras."

The worst part of this little newspaper item was the response from the man who said, "I don't believe that we should discriminate, but creating a spe-

cial law for gays and lesbians increased the discrimination against straight people and religious groups." I know this guy. He could not think of this himself. I know he is repeating what he has been told at his church. He goes to a RRR church. These are the places I bet many of those signatures came from. They listen to a long, long rant from the pulpit- partially scripted by Pat Robertson probably- they get all worked up hearing these lies and are asked to sign the petition that will save the

Grand State of Maine from going straight to Hell! (Ever notice no one ever goes GAY to Hell?) They are told that if anyone ever disagrees with them, that means they are being discriminated against!

Ok, enough of a rant. I really get worked up about this LYING! Can you tell? "SPECIAL RIGHTS" IS A LIE! NO ONE IS ASKING FOR SPECIAL RIGHTS- JUST EQUAL RIGHTS!!!!

Dan Woodward

Correction

In last month's issue of CPR a Letter to the editor concerning Mr. Ari Kane went to press with the signature lines of the authors having been omitted they are as follows:

Bobbi Keppel
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All MaineTransgender
PO Box 145, Brewer, ME 04412.
(207) 947-1686

Community Pride
Reporter

Our Mission

Community Pride Reporter serves as a source of local, state, national and international news, information, ideas and opinions by and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people of Maine and New Hampshire. CPR strives to increase awareness and acceptance of the rich diversity among us, with the intention of infusing the World community with renewed meaning and vitality. CPR pledges to present materials that contribute in positive ways to lesbians, gays, bisexual and transgendered people.

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Views and opinions, political and personal, expressed in Community Pride Reporter are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the publisher. Community Pride Reporter may endorse candidates we feel represent our community most completely. Community Pride Reporter disclaims legal responsibility for errors in editorial, or advertising content, as all reasonable care is taken to prevent such errors. If an error has significantly detracted from the clarity of information presented, the Publisher may consider printing a clarification at her discretion. No assumption should be made concerning the sexual self-identification of either contributors or advertisers.

Submissions Welcome

CPR encourages readers to write! Material submitted for publication must be legibly signed and include address and/or phone number for verification. All submissions are subject to editing. Please keep letters to the CPR Mailbag to 300 words or less. Slightly longer and more composed submissions may be considered for a guest editorial at the Publishers discretion. If requested, the Publisher may agree to withhold the name of an author for appropriate reasons. Questions regarding submissions should be directed to the publishing editor.

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Mainly Numbers

By: The Number Guy

This is the first installment of what I hope will be a regular column in Community Pride Reporter. After all - a newspaper with an editor named Angel should have at least one regular New Agey feature. Don't you agree?

My topic will be numerology, sometimes called number mysticism. Numerology is obscure, even by the already esoteric standards of the occult. Generally, astrology, which is not only vastly more popular, but also considered by many to be more profound, overshadows numerology.

I think astrology and numerology spring from different aspects of the human experience, and as a result, each has particular strengths. In this column I want to briefly discuss one element of basic numerology - the karmic numbers. But before I do, let me explain some of the most basic elements of numerology.

Numerologists believe that each of the numbers 0 through 9 has a specific meaning and that larger numbers and letters can be reduced to each of these numbers. The number 10, for instance, can be reduced to 1 ($1+0=1$). The number 22 can be reduced to 4 ($2+2=4$).

Letters can be reduced simply noting their position in the alphabet. For example, A is 1, B is 2, C is 3 and so forth. X, the 24th letter of alphabet, reduces to 6 ($2+4=6$), K, the 11th letter, reduces to 2 ($1+1=2$), etc. (See the chart below).

Numerology Conversion Chart
A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

In numerology, we take combinations of letters and numbers (usually people's full names and their dates of birth) and add them up in various ways. For example, let's take a person with the name FRANK ROBERT KOCH born on July 4, 1776. Using the chart above, we see that: FRANK = $6+9+1+5+2=2+3=5$

ROBERT = $9+6+2+5+9+2=3+3=6$ TOTAL = $3(5+6+1=1+2=3)$ KOCH = $2+6+3+8=1+9=1$

Similarly, the birthdate July 4,

1776 would equal 7 (July is the 7th month) plus 4 (the day of the month) plus 3 ($1+7+7+6=2+1=3$) for a total of 5

Okay. Now, let's learn about karmic numbers. The numbers that aren't in your name tell a Numerologer almost as much as the numbers that are. These missing digits represent karmic lessons, the areas of human experience you must learn more about in your present life.

Discovering your karmic lesson numbers is very simple. Using the chart below, convert the letters in your name to their numeric equivalents. Note any missing letters. See if you are missing ALL the letters under any number. If so, that number is one of your karmic lessons. For example, if you are missing all the "one" letters (A, J, and S), your karmic lesson number would be "one." Many people will find they have more than one karmic lesson. And some people will discover they are not missing any numbers at all.

This is the karmic lesson of "zero." The meanings of each karmic lesson follow.

Zero Karmic Lesson: No missing numbers. This generally suggests that the person is here to work on everything in this life, instead of on one or more particular areas.

One Karmic Lesson: Missing One (A, J, and S). One is the self, and a lack of one suggests difficulty in taking the initiative, being a leader, and standing up for oneself. A great reluctance to take risks may also be present. People missing the number one will find themselves in situations requiring them to assert themselves.

Two Karmic Lesson: Missing Two (B, K, and T). The number two represents partnerships. Those missing two in their name will have difficulty getting along with others, particularly one-on-one. Often, people missing two are hypersensitive, overreacting to real or imagined slights. Sometimes they are extremely tactless. In either case, they would benefit from develop-

ing better interpersonal skills.

Three Karmic Lesson: Missing Three (C, L, and U). This is the challenge of self-expression and less often, of learning to enjoy life. Those missing three in their name will benefit from working on their speaking and writing skills, and from any activities which encourage creative expression. Attention to the appearance is also important. Sometimes those missing three will also find it difficult to take pleasure in life. Such people will benefit from socializing, entertaining, travel, and similar activities, as well as from cultivating a positive attitude.

Four Karmic Lesson: Missing Four (D, M, and V). Four is the number of work. Those lacking it will have great difficulty in taking projects of all sorts from beginning to end in a methodical way. They may also find themselves lacking in common sense or simply have poor decision-making abilities. People missing four will benefit from creating orderly lives that stress hard work and logical thinking.

Five Karmic Lesson: Missing Five (E, N, and W). A lack of five suggests a lack of desire to be broadened by experience. There will likely be a disinterest in travel, freedom, change, and excitement of all sorts. The person may be rigid and dislike interaction with others. This is probably the rarest karmic lesson; I do not believe I have ever met anyone without E, N or W in their name.

Six Karmic Lesson: Missing Six (F, O, and X). Six will bring lessons relating to responsibility, particularly as it applies to committed relationships and the family. Often, such people are capricious in relationships. They may abandon committed relationships for questionable reasons and then live to regret the decision. Similarly, they may get into relationships without appropriate forethought and be unhappy. People with six karma would be wise to nurture their sense of duty towards those close to them, and to avoid impulsively getting into or out of relationships.

Seven Karmic Lesson: Missing Seven (G, P, and Y). Seven is the lesson of the spirit; that the world of the senses is only a part of what is. I find this karmic lesson to be the most fascinating, because it frequently manifests in interesting ways. An example: a friend with seven karma grew up in a house with poisonous snakes in the basement. These poisonous snakes were not native to the area, occurred nowhere else nearby, and could not be removed by any means. The lessons of seven are not always so colorful, but generally odd events come into the life, often of an occult, religious, spiritual, or less often, scientific nature.

Eight Karmic Lesson: Missing Eight (H, Q, and Z). Eight is the opposite lesson to seven; it is the lesson that the material world is important. People with this karmic lesson would be advised to learn to value money and material things appropriately; not to under-value or overvalue them. Typically, a person with eight karma will receive a substantial sum of money at some time in his or her life, mismanage it, and live to regret it. Often, people with eight karma have little discipline or good sense in financial matters, and this makes their lives much more difficult than they would otherwise be. Less often, eight brings lessons about the proper use of power.

Nine Karmic Lesson: Missing Nine (I, and R). Nine is the lesson of spiritual love, and will bring experiences probably unwelcome which develop compassion. The person missing nine is likely to be lacking in humanitarian feelings, which may manifest in any number of ways: intolerance, selfishness, and an inability to give freely of one's emotions, and so forth. Like five, nine is a rare karmic lesson. I believe the karmic lessons are very important. In many lives, they are strong obstacles, and the proper understanding of them can be key to making material and spiritual progress.

More about numerology in the coming months!

Numerology Conversion Chart

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	



by Judy Garvey
The *Rod of Light* produced by The

Healing Technology Explained in Portland

Gentle Wind Project, completely restores a person's energetic structure when held only one time for three minutes. This unique healing will be available, at no charge, to everyone attending a Portland seminar hosted by the Kittery-based, non-profit would healing organization on October 19th.

The Gentle wind researchers, former social workers, educators, and therapists, believe that life's hurts and wounds are stored in the energetic structure, or aura, resulting in impaired human functioning. The Project's healing technology improves the quality of people's lives and greatly relieves much of the human suffering that is inherent in life.

One aspect to this healing restores

the sense of "belongingness" in gay people who may have been hurt through cultural and social prejudices. While this healing technology has nothing to do with trying to alter a person's sexual orientation, it does clarify all aspects of life - relationships being just one part.

A gay friend who I introduced to the work of Gentle Wind reported to me that, after years of confusion and isolation, she "...feels part of life now." She explains, "I used to feel like an observer, separate from the life that was going on around me. Although I was productive and had happy times in my life, I could never call myself a happy person. I now feel like I belong, and can honestly say that I'm happy. I am so relieved and truly amazed by the difference."

After 14 years of research, 92 percent of the people who used the healing technology found that their depression, anxieties, and stress-related conditions were alleviated. The majority say they now have inner resources to solve problems they once considered impossible, and that their personal relationships have improved or that they have moved on to healthier situations.

The October 19th seminar is at the WholeHeart Yoga Center, 150 St. John, from 2-4 P.M. Requested donation is \$10. To pre-register, call 207-374-2437, 207-774-9824, e-mail: judyg@acadia.net, or visit the web site at: www.gentlewindproject.org.

Judy Garvey is a writer, editor, and homeschooling mother living in Blue Hill

Eye on Equality: Telling Truths

Like many people, I have found myself moved by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. While it is true that I am a soft touch for determined blonde femmes with strong social convictions, I also appreciate that Diana sought to provide comfort for others while at the same time looking for love herself.

I am glad that the media has focused on Diana as an agent of change and on her work with survivors of land mines, the homeless and people with AIDS.

Few of us come to fame by marrying an heir to the throne. And few have the advantages that come to those with wealth and royal privilege. Yet each of us can make social change in our own way. I've been reminded recently of two such women who have profoundly changed the world in which we live, Dorothy Hadjys and Adrienne Rich.

Dorothy Hadjys is the mother of Allen Schindler, a sailor who was brutally murdered by his shipmates because he was gay. Adrienne Rich is a remarkable writer whose nearly two dozen volumes of poetry and prose have been transformational.

Two of her essays, "Compulsory Heterosexuality" and "Women and Honor: Some Notes on Lying," transformed many in my generation.

Dorothy Hajdys came to her activism because of her son's murder. When the Navy stonewalled Dorothy, she worked tirelessly (with help from the gay, lesbian and bisexual community) to insure that Allen Schindler's killers would be brought to justice. Dorothy's vigilance can never end.

Now, with the help of the Servicemember's Legal Defense Network, Dorothy is trying to collect one million signatures to insure that Allen's killer is never considered for parole. Her story was recently portrayed in the film, "Any Mother's Son." When I met Dorothy this past August, she said there were only two

places left where she wanted to tell her story to Oprah Winfrey and the President of the United States.

She understands there is great power in telling her story and the story of her son. Earlier this summer Adrienne Rich got word that she had been selected to receive the prestigious National Medal for the Arts. Each year, the award is given to twelve recipients. She turned the Medal down flat because accepting it would be viewed as condoning the Administration's social policies with which she disagrees. She wrote to Jane Alexander, chair of the National Endowment for the Arts, "A President cannot meaningfully honor certain token artists while the people at large are so dishonored."

As Rich said to journalist Laura Flanders, "You know, I really wouldn't mandate what someone else should do in a situation like this, and as I've said there's no simple formula for the relationship of art to justice. I did what I had to do because of who I am."

As Rich says in "Women and Honor: Some Notes on Lying" (from "On Lies, Secrets and Silence: Selected Prose 1966-1978"), "Truthfulness anywhere means a heightened complexity...The politics worth having, the relationships worth having, demand that we delve still deeper."

And, each of these women has. Each came to their political work from widely divergent starting places. Each was passionately and tirelessly driven to tell the truth in their own way. Each teaches us that truth-telling transforms both the teller and those of us who listen.

As Rich says, "...truth is not one thing, or even a system. It is an increasing complexity." The stories each of us tells about our lives and our willingness to dig deep and take risks, transforms not only our own gay, lesbian,

bisexual and transgender community, but the lives of millions around the world.

It is this transformation connecting personal to political action each day of our lives, that makes social change.

Eye on Equality is a monthly column that discusses or gives commen-

tary on national and state-level political events or provides a behind-the-scenes look at social movements and trends. The column is written by Kerry Lobel, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

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Lisa and Susanne Clements are pleased to announce the opening of the first, all-inclusive, personal introduction service. Many people whom they know have little opportunity to meet potential companions because of their busy schedules or because they require the confidentiality that other venues do not provide.

Although public awareness is slowly changing toward people who live an alternative lifestyle, it is still difficult to meet potential companions with whom you may share interests and values. Thus, Rainbow Circle of Friends was born. Rainbow Circle of Friends is the only personal introduction service to serve diverse populations regardless of sexual orientation.

Lisa used to work for a company which called itself the most well known dating service in the world, it probably has more offices than anyone else, and is well known. The problem she felt was that they were very exclusive as to who they offered their services to.

"I took it personally that they were that exclusive because I have friends who are gay and lesbian, and I know how hard it is to come out, one of my friends that I've had for 16 years who's known that I'm open minded and nonjudgmental and that I have friends that are gay and lesbian and bisexual just came out to me recently and I know how hard that was for her to do that. I feel that our service will be valuable to people, number one because not as many women as men are out and I've had some calls from people from the add in CPR, the women I talked to weren't out, if anything maybe this service will help people realize that they're not different that they can be accepted, I don't know if it will help anyone who isn't out to come out.

Lisa has also begun to speak at support groups about Rainbow Circle of Friends service.. Seacoast Gay Men's Gender Talk North and a new women's group called Lady Bugs are among the groups she's spoken to. She welcomes the opportunity to speak to any group. "One of the things I realized we were faced with, Susanne and I not being gay, was the fact that there are issues that we not even be aware of even though we have gay friends." With that knowledge they have decided that it would be very important to bring people on board from

different backgrounds from the community that people would feel comfortable working with. "We're looking for people in Maine who would like to work for us and welcome anyone in the area to come work for us."

RCF has a very basic low pressure process when you call, when someone calls they thank them for calling into Rainbow and let the caller know that they are an all inclusive service. The caller is then asked if they wouldn't mind answering a few general intake questions. Name, address and phone number is requested but only if the caller feels comfortable should they answer. RCF doesn't believe in pushing anyone into anything as other high pressure dating services are prone to do. "We want to provide a better more personal service. We take the information down, they ask how much it will cost and we tell them. We ask if they are interested in casual dating or serious relationships, one referral or three, we match by goals computability, we wouldn't mix casual with serious. We network people from state to state.

After the initial telephone interview if the caller wants to purchase the service and everyone is comfortable they meet personally with the applicant.

This service is also for people with disabilities and is truly an all inclusive service. The owners suppose that they may be being idealistic but they feel that people, no matter what race, religion, nationality, sex, sexual orientation or gender all deserve a chance for happiness.

One Lesbian caller asked how someone straight could find her a date? Good point! This is another reason the owners feel it is important to have people from the populations they're trying to serve working with them.

Rainbow Circle of Friends serves Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and helps people who want to relocate. The service is strictly personal and confidential. Rainbow Consultants have training and education in health, civil rights, special services, aids awareness and human relations. Research has found that human companionship and being in love is good for your health. Start improving your health today by contacting Rainbow Circle of Friends toll-free at 888-899-RCOF.



It's Elementary

Talking About Gay Issues in School
A Film by Debra Chasnoff & Helen Cohen

"WE'RE CONCERNED WOMEN, TOO!"
Filmmakers Respond to Conservative Criticism Against
IT'S ELEMENTARY-Talking About Gay Issues in School
Producers Offer School Officials Free Copies of Documentary Film

San Francisco, California -- As America's children went back to school this week, the conservative group Concerned Women for America (CWA) launched another attack on multicultural education that it uses to turn schools into battlegrounds. This time the organization has singled out the documentary film, IT'S ELEMENTARY-Talking About Gay Issues in School by Academy Award winner Debra Chasnoff and producer Helen Cohen. The acclaimed movie, filmed in communities across the U.S., looks at how different schools have incorporated an awareness of gay and lesbian issues into their curricula. Intended as a resource for educators and PTAs, the film invites dialogue about the impact of stereotypes and hate violence on elementary-school children. It features predominantly heterosexual teachers, principals, and parents who have found that this kind of inclusive multicultural education is in all students' best interests.

But to CWA, the documentary is part of a "militant homosexual propaganda effort" that is "recruiting a new generation to become homosexuals." IT'S ELEMENTARY should be censored, fumes CWA in its fundraising letter to hundreds of thousands of parents, characterizing the film as an "abomination" and an "unspeakable evil" that shows "just how low homosexual extremists will stoop to ensnare children. CWA's campaign comes on the heels of similar attacks by Focus on the Family, the Family Research Council, and the Phyllis Schlafly Report.

Chasnoff and Cohen, who are themselves mothers of grade-school children and active members of their own PTAs, say the hysteria of the attack on IT'S ELEMENTARY points to the need for thoughtful discussion before schools are divided by controversy and hate campaigns. "We, too, are concerned women!" says Director Debra Chasnoff. "And the feedback we have been getting from educators and parents across the country is that, in fact, IT'S ELEMENTARY is a highly effective resource for helping schools prevent violence, support all families, and affirm all children so that they can thrive academically."

In response to CWA's censorship campaign, the filmmakers, in conjunction with the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network, the national organization working to end anti-gay prejudice in schools, are offering a complimentary copy of IT'S ELEMENTARY to any public school board member or school district superintendent so they can judge the message of the documentary for themselves. "We've repeatedly seen how our film has helped open up the dialogue in hundreds of school communities on an issue that most adults aren't sure how to address," says Producer Helen Cohen. "Administrators and teachers are clamoring for educational resources. We'd hate for any school district to miss out on this opportunity because of the vicious rhetoric from religious conservatives. We invite educational policy makers to look at IT'S ELEMENTARY first before succumbing to censorship."

For information about the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network call John Spear at (212) 727-0135 x114

Here's what a handful of educators have to say about IT'S ELEMENTARY, winner of the C.I.N.E. Golden Eagle for Best Teacher Education Film:

*Carolyn Sheldon, President, American School Counselor Association

"Groundbreaking - a 'must-see' for educational policy makers everywhere."

*Luis O. Reyes, New York City School Board

"I preview lots of tapes for our diversity and multicultural training programs and IT'S ELEMENTARY was really the BEST film I've seen in ages. For people who are in the business of educating educators, this is a seminal piece of work."

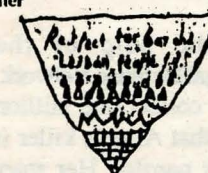
*Ellen Bettman, Director of Research and Development, A World of Difference, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith

"Congratulations on your excellent work in putting together IT'S ELEMENTARY... we don't always get the human dimension of the issues we encounter. You have brought an 'issue' to life in a powerful and moving fashion."

*Steve Phillips, President, San Francisco Board of Education

"Having concrete examples of how to accomplish this daunting task was helpful. The children's voices were beautiful and should make most adults feel silly about their learned behaviors."

*Marge Thompson, second grade teacher



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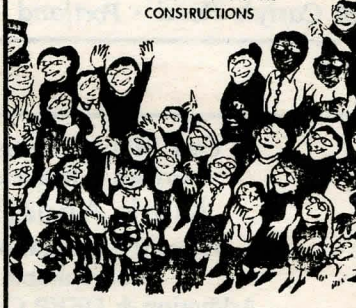
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